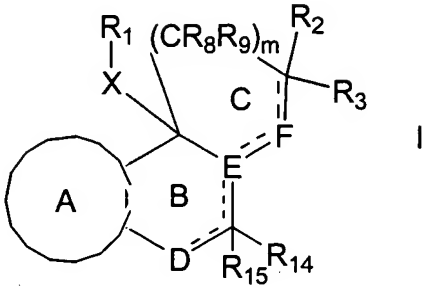
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I



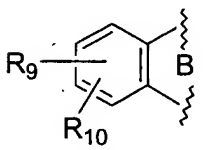
I

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein m is 1 or 2;

- - - represents an optional bond;

A is selected from the group consisting of



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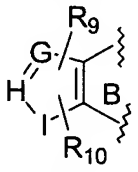

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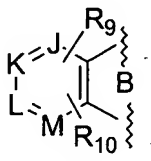

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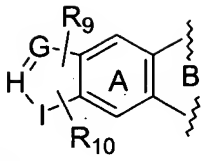

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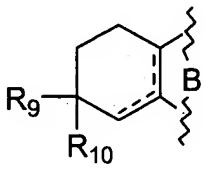


and

A-5

D is CR_7, CR_7R_{16}, N, NR_7 or O;

E is C, CR_6 or N;

F is CR_4, CR_4R_5 or O;

G, H and I together with 2 carbon atoms from the A-ring or 2 carbon atoms from the B-ring form a 5-membered heterocyclic ring comprising one or more N, O or S atoms; provided that there is at most one of O and S per ring;

J, K, L and M together with 2 carbon atoms from the B-ring forms a 6-membered heterocyclic ring comprising 1 or more N atoms;

X is a) absent, b) $-CH_2-$, c) -CH(OH)- or d) -C(O)-;

R_1 is a) -H, b) -Z-CF_3, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl, f) -CHO, g) -CH=N-OR_{12}, h) -Z-C(O)OR_{12}, i) -Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, k) -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, l) -Z-NR_{12}het, m) -Z-het, n) -Z-O-het, o) -Z-aryl', p) -Z-O-aryl', q) -CHOH-aryl' or r) -C(O)-aryl' wherein aryl' in substituents o) to r) is substituted independently with 0, 1 or 2 of the following: -Z-OH, -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-het, -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -C(O)OH, -C(O)-het, -NR_{12}-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-Z-het, -CN, -Z-het, -O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NR_{12}-Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -N(Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -NR_{12}-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-SO_2-R_{13}, -NR_{12}-SO_2-het, -C(O)H, -Z-NR_{12}-Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -Z-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, -Z-N(Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -SO_2R_{12}, -SOR_{12}, -SR_{12}, -$SO_2NR_{12}R_{13}$, -O-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -O-SO_2-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -halo or -CF_3;

Z for each occurrence is independently a) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl, b) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl or c) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl;

R_2 is a) -H, b) -halo, c) -OH, d) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 -OH, e) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, f) -Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, g) -Z-C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$, h) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, i) -Z-O-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, j) -Z-O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, l) -O-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, m) -O-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl, n) -O-Z-het, o) -COOH, p) -C(OH)$R_{12}R_{13}$ or q) -Z-CN;

R_3 is a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl wherein 1 or 2 carbon atoms, other than the connecting carbon atom, may optionally be replaced with 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from S, O and N and wherein each carbon atom is substituted with 0, 1 or 2 R_y, c) -(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl substituted with 0, 1 or 2 R_y, d) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl wherein 1 carbon atom, other than the connecting carbon atom, may optionally be replaced with 1 oxygen atom and wherein each carbon atom is substituted with 0, 1 or 2 R_y, e) -CH=C=CH_2, f) -CN, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, h) -Z-aryl, i) -Z-het, j) -C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, l) -Z-S-R_{12}, m) -Z-S(O)-R_{12}, n) -Z-S(O)$_2$-R_{12}, o) -CF_3 p) -NR_{12}O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl or q) -CH_2OR_y;

provided that one of R_2 and R_3 is absent when there is a double bond between CR_2R_3 (the 7 position) and the F moiety (the 8 position) of the C-ring;

R_y for each occurrence is independently a) -OH, b) -halo, c) -Z-CF_3, d) -Z-$CF(C_1$-C_3 alkyl$)_2$, e) -CN, f) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, h) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl, i) -(C_0-C_3)alkyl-aryl, j) -het or k) -N_3;

or R_2 and R_3 are taken together to form a) =CHR_{11}, b) =NOR_{11}, c) =O, d) =N-NR_{12}, e) =N-NR_{12}-C(O)-R_{12}, f) oxiranyl or g) 1,3-dioxolan-4-yl;

R_4 and R_5 for each occurrence are independently a) -H, b) -CN, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, f) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, g) -O-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, h) -O-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, i) halo, j) -OH, k) (C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl or l) (C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl;

or R_4 and R_5 are taken together to form =O;

R_6 is a) -H, b) -CN, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo or f) -OH;

R_7 and R_{16} for each occurrence are independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) -CN, d) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo or f) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo; provided that R_7 is other than -CN or -halo when D is NR_7;

or R_7 and R_{16} are taken together to form =O;

R_8, R_9, R_{14} and R_{15} for each occurrence are independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) (C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, f) -CN, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, h) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl, i) -OH, j) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkenyl, l) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkynyl, m) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, n) -C(O)OR_{12} or o) -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$;

or R_8 and R_9 are taken together on the C-ring to form =O; provided that when m is 2, only one set of R_8 and R_9 are taken together to form =O;

or R_{14} and R_{15} are taken together to form =O; provided that when R_{14} and R_{15} are taken together to form =O, D is other than CR_7 and E is other than C;

R_{10} is a) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, b) -(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, c) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl substituted with 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, d) -halo, e) -Z-CN, f) -OH, g) -Z-het, h) -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, i) -Z-C(O)-het, j)

-Z-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, l) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-CN, m) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, n) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-aryl, o) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, p) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, q) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl-C(O)OH, r) -Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, s) -Z-O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-het, t) -Z-O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-aryl, u) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 2 R_x, v) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-CH(O), w) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-NR_{12}-het, x) -Z-O-Z-het-Z-het, y) -Z-O-Z-het-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, z) -Z-O-Z-het-C(O)-het, a1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-het, b1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-het-het, c1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d1) -Z-O-Z-C(S)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, e1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, f1) -Z-O-Z-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, g1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, h1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-OH, i1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, j1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-OH, k1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, l1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, m1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, n1) -Z-O-Z-C(=NR_{12})($NR_{12}R_{13}$), o1) -Z-O-Z-C(=NOR_{12})($NR_{12}R_{13}$), p1) -Z-NR_{12}-C(O)-O-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, q1) -Z-S-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, r1) -Z-O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, s1) -Z-O-SO_2-aryl, t1) -Z-O-SO_2-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, u1) -Z-O-SO_2-CF_3, v1) -Z-NR_{12}C(O)OR_{13} or w1) -Z-NR_{12}C(O)R_{13};

or R_9 and R_{10} are taken together on the moiety of formula A-5 to form a) = O or b) = NOR_{12};

R_{11} is a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_5)alkyl, c) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl or d) -(C_0-C_3)alkyl-aryl;

R_{12} and R_{13} for each occurrence are each independently a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl wherein 1 or 2 carbon atoms, other than the connecting carbon atom, may optionally be replaced with 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from S, O and N and wherein each carbon atom is substituted with 0 to 6 halo, c) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 6 halo or d) -(C_1-C_6)alkynyl wherein 1 carbon atom, other than the connecting carbon atom, may optionally be replaced with 1 oxygen atom and wherein each carbon atom is substituted with 0 to 6 halo;

or R_{12} and R_{13} are taken together with N to form het;

or R_6 and R_{14} or R_{15} are taken together to form 1,3-dioxolanyl;

aryl is a) phenyl substituted with 0 to 3 R_x, b) naphthyl substituted with 0 to 3 R_x or c) biphenyl substituted with 0 to 3 R_x;

het is a 5-,6- or 7-membered saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring containing from one (1) to three (3) heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and including any bicyclic group in which any of the above heterocyclic rings is fused to a benzene ring or another

heterocycle; and the nitrogen may be in the oxidized state giving the N-oxide form; and substituted with 0 to 3 R_x;

R_x for each occurrence is independently a) -halo, b) -OH, c) -$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, d) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, e) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, f) -O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, g) -O$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, h) -O$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, i) -$(C_0$-$C_6)$alkyl-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-SO_2R_{12}, l)-Z-SOR_{12}, m) -Z-SR_{12}, n) -NR_{12}-SO_2R_{13}, o) -NR_{12}-C(O)-R_{13}, p) -NR_{12}-OR_{13}, q) -SO_2-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, r) -CN, s) -CF_3, t) -C(O)$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, u) =O, v) -Z-SO_2-phenyl or w) -Z-SO_2-het';

aryl' is phenyl, naphthyl or biphenyl;

het' is a 5-,6- or 7-membered saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring containing from one (1) to three (3) heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and including any bicyclic group in which any of the above heterocyclic rings is fused to a benzene ring or another heterocycle;

provided that:

1) X-R_1 is other than hydrogen or methyl;

2) when R_9 and R_{10} are substituents on the A-ring, they are other than mono- or di-methoxy;

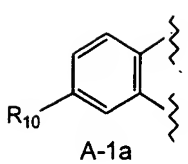
3) when R_2 and R_3 are taken together to form =CHR_{11} or =O wherein R_{11} is -O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, then -X-R_1 is other than $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl;

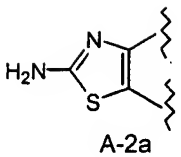
4) when R_2 and R_3 taken together are C=O and R_9 is hydrogen on the A-ring; or when R_2 is hydroxy, R_3 is hydrogen and R_9 is hydrogen on the A-ring, then R_{10} is other than -O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl or -O-CH_2-phenyl at the 2-position of the A-ring;

5) when X-R_1 is $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_4)$alkenyl or $(C_2$-$C_4)$alkynyl, R_9 and R_{10} are other than mono-hydroxy or =O, including the diol form thereof, when taken together; and

6) when X is absent, R_1 is other than a moiety containing a heteroatom independently selected from N, O or S directly attached to the juncture of the B-ring and the C-ring.

2. A compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; wherein the A-ring is selected from the group consisting of:


A-1a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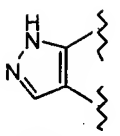
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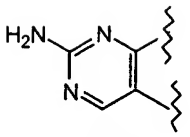
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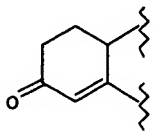
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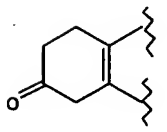
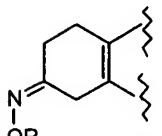
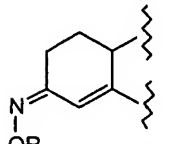

A-5b


A-5c


A-5d

D is CR_7, $CR_{16}R_7$ or O;

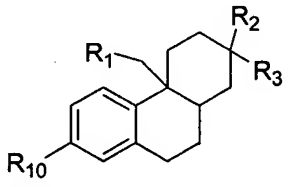
E is C, CR_6 or N;

F is CR_4, CR_4R_5 or O; and

X is $-CH_2-$.

3. A compound of claim 2, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; wherein D is CH_2; E is CH; F is CH_2; R_8 is -H; R_9 is -H; m is 2; R_{14} is -H; R_{15} is -H; and the A-ring is the moiety of formula A-1a.

4. A compound of claim 3 of formula II


II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_2 is a) -OH or b) $-O-CH_2$-het;

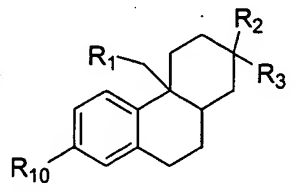
R_3 is a) $-(C_1-C_6)$alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: $-CF_3$, -CN, $-(C_3-C_6)$cycloalkyl, -phenyl or $-N_3$, b) $-C\equiv C-$ substituted with 1 of the following: $-(C_1-C_5)$alkyl, -Cl, $-CF_3$, $-(C_3-C_6)$cycloalkyl, -phenyl or -benzyl; c) $-CH_2OH$, d) $-CH_2O(C_1-C_5)$alkyl wherein 1 carbon atom may optionally be replaced with 1 oxygen atom, e) $-CH_2O(C_2-C_5)$alkenyl, f) $-CH_2O(C_2-C_5)$alkynyl wherein 1 carbon atom may optionally be replaced with 1 oxygen atom, g) $-CH_2OR_y$, h) -CN or i) $-CF_3$;

R_y is a) $-(C_1-C_3)$alkyl-CF_3, b) $-(C_3-C_6)$cycloalkyl, c) -phenyl or d) -benzyl;

or R_2 and R_3 are taken together to form a) -1,3-dioxolan-4-yl or b) $=NOR_{11}$;

R_{11} is a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_5)alkyl, c) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, d) -phenyl or e) -benzyl.

5. A compound of claim 4 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_1 is a) -(C_1-C_4)alkyl, b) -(C_2-C_4)alkenyl, c) -phenyl substituted with zero or one of the following: -OH, -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -NR_{12}-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -CN, -Z-het, -O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -NR_{12}-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-SO_2-R_{13}, -NR_{12}-SO_2-het, -O-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)alkyl or -O-SO_2-(C_1-C_4)alkyl; d) -O-phenyl substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$ or -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$, or e) -CH=CH-phenyl wherein phenyl is substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$ or -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$;

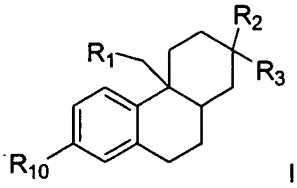
Z for each occurrence is independently -(C_0-C_2)alkyl;

R_{10} is a) -CH(OH)(C_1-C_5)alkyl, b) -CN, c) -OH, d) -het, e) -C(O)-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, f) -C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, g) -C(O)-NH-Z-het, h) -O-(C_0-C_2)alkyl-het, i) -O-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -O-Z-C(O)-NH-(C_0-C_3)alkyl-het or k) -O-Z-C(O)-NH-(C_0-C_3)alkyl-$NR_{12}R_{13}$;

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently a) -H or b) -(C_1-C_4)alkyl;

or R_{12} and R_{13} are taken together with N to form het.

6. A compound of claim 5 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

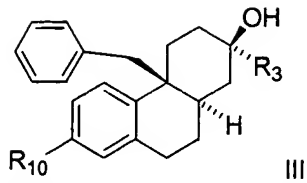
wherein R_1 is a) -(C_2-C_4)alkyl, b) -CH_2-CH=CH_2 or c) -phenyl;

R_2 is -OH;

R_3 is a) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) -C≡C-CH_3, c) -C≡C-Cl, d) -C≡C-CF_3, e) -CH_2O(C_1-C_3)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is -OH.

7. A compound of claim 6 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 and R_{10} are as defined in claim 6.

8. A compound of claim 7 selected from the group consisting of:

2,7-phenanthrenediol,2-(chloroethynyl)-1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-[2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propynyl)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

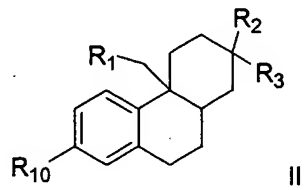
2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-2-methyl-4a-(phenylmethyl)-,[2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-; and

2,7-phenanthrenediol,1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-, (2*R*,4a*S*,10a*R*)-;

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

9. A compound of claim 5 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

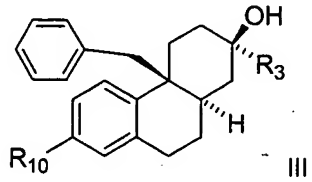
wherein R_1 is a) -(C_2-C_4)alkyl, b) -CH_2-CH=CH_2 or c) -phenyl;

R_2 is -OH;

R_3 is a) -(C_1-C_5)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) -C≡C-CH_3, c) -C≡C-Cl, d) -C≡C-CF_3, e) -CH_2O(C_1-C_3)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is -CN.

10. A compound of claim 9 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 and R_{10} are as defined in claim 9.

11. A compound of claim 10 selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenecarbonitrile, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]; and

2-phenanthrenecarbonitrile, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

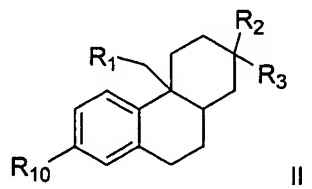
12. The compound of claim 10 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. The compound of claim 10 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. The compound of claim 10 wherein R_3 is -CF_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The compound of claim 10 wherein R_3 is -$CH_2CH_2CF_3$ and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The compound of claim 5 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_1 is a) -(C_2-C_4)alkyl, b) -CH_2-CH=CH_2 or c) -phenyl;

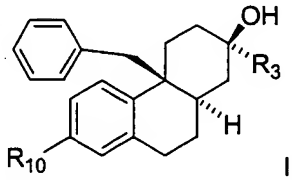
R_2 is -OH;

R_3 is a) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) -C≡C-CH_3, c) -C≡C-Cl, d) -C≡C-CF_3, e) -CH_2O(C_1-C_3)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-Z-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of a) pyridinyl substituted with 0 or 1 methyl, b) pyrimidinyl, c) pyrazinyl, d) morpholinyl and e) oxadiazolyl;

Z is -(C_0-C_2) alkyl.

17. A compound of claim 16 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 is a) -(CH_2)$_2$-CF_3, b) -(CH_2)$_2$-CH_3, c) -CH_3, d) -C≡C-CH_3, e) -C≡C-Cl or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is as defined in claim 16.

18. A compound of claim 17 selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-2-pyridinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-pyrazinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-3-pyridinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-2-pyridinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-4-pyridinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-3-pyridinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, (4b*S*,7*S*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-, (4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-4b-(phenylmethyl)-*N*-3-pyridinyl-, (4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-; and

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-N-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(trifluoromethyl)-, (4bS, 7R, 8aR)-;

or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

19. A compound of claim 18 selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-pyrazinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, (4b*S*,7*S*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-,(4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-4b-(phenylmethyl)-*N*-3-pyridinyl-, (4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-; and

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-N-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-trifluoromethyl)-, (4bS, 7R, 8aR)-; or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

20. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(4-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(2-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. Thecompound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-(2-pyrazinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is -C(O)-NH-CH_2-(2-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

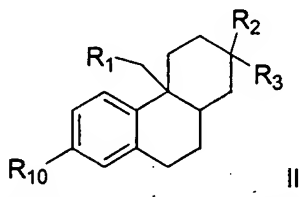
27. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is $-(CH_2)_2-CF_3$ and R_{10} is $-C(O)-NH-CH_2-$(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is $-CH_3$ and R_{10} is $-C(O)-NH-CH_2-$(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is $-CH_3$ and R_{10} is $-C(O)-NH-$(3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_3 is $-CF_3$ and R_{10} is $-C(O)-NH-CH_2-$(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. A compound of claim 5 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

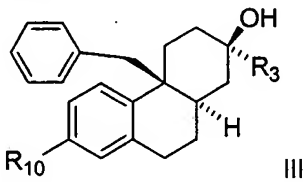
wherein R_1 is a) $-(C_2-C_4)$alkyl, b) $-CH_2-CH=CH_2$ or c) -phenyl;

R_2 is -OH;

R_3 is a) $-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) $-C\equiv C-CH_3$, c) $-C\equiv C-Cl$, d) $-C\equiv C-CF_3$, e) $-CH_2O(C_1-C_3)$alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, or f) $-CF_3$;

R_{10} is $-O-(C_1-C_2)$alkyl-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of a) pyridinyl substituted with 0 or 1 methyl, b) pyrimidinyl, c) pyrazinyl, d) morpholinyl and f) oxadiazolyl.

32. A compound of claim 31 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 is a) $-(CH_2)_2-CF_3$, b) $-(CH_2)_2-CH_3$, c) $-CH_3$, d) $-C\equiv C-CH_3$, e) $-C\equiv C-Cl$ or f) $-CF_3$;

R_{10} is -O-(C_1-C_2)alkyl-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of a) 2-pyridinyl, b) 3-pyridinyl, c) 4-pyridinyl, d) 2-methyl-3-pyridinyl and e) pyrazinyl.

33. A compound of claim 32 selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(3-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-7-(3-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-4-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-propyl-7-(pyrazinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3-pyridinylmethoxy)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-; and

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-, (2*R*,4a*S*,10a*R*)-;

or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

34. A compound of claim 33 selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3-pyridinylmethoxy)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-; and

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-, (2*R*,4a*S*,10a*R*)-;

or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

35. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(4-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(2-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

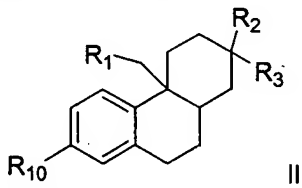
37. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(2-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

40. The compound of claim 32 wherein R_3 is -CF_3 and R_{10} is -O-CH_2-(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. A compound of claim 5 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

wherein R_1 is a) -$(C_2$-$C_4)$alkyl, b) -CH_2-CH=CH_2 or c) -phenyl;

R_2 is -OH;

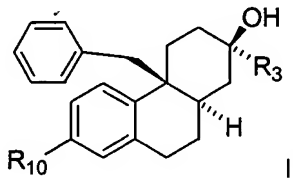
R_3 is a) -$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) -C≡C-CH_3, c) -C≡C-Cl, d) -C≡C-CF_3, e) -$CH_2O(C_1$-$C_3)$alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3,or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is a) -O-Z-C(O)-NH-$(C_0$-$C_3)$alkyl-N$((C_1$-$C_2)$alkyl$)_2$, b) -O-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, or c) -O-Z-C(O)-NH-$(C_0$-$C_3)$alkyl-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of 1) pyridinyl substituted with 0 or 1 methyl, 2) pyrimidinyl, 3) pyrazinyl, 4) morpholinyl, 5) pyrrolidinyl, 6) imidazolyl and 7) oxadiazolyl;

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently a) -H or b) -$(C_1$-$C_2)$alkyl; or R_{12} and R_{13} taken together with N to form pyrrolidinyl;

Z is -$(C_0$-$C_1)$ alkyl.

42. A compound of claim 41 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 is a) -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3, b) -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3, c) -CH_3, d) -C≡C-CH_3, e) -C≡C-Cl or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is a) -O-C(O)-NH-$(C_0$-$C_3)$alkyl-N$((C_1$-$C_2)$alkyl$)_2$, b) -O-C(O)-N$(CH_3)_2$, c) -O-C(O)-(1-pyrrolidinyl) or d) -O-C(O)-NH-$(C_0$-$C_3)$alkyl-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of 1) 2-pyridinyl, 2) 3-pyridinyl, 3) 4-pyridinyl, 4) 2-methyl-3-pyridinyl, 5) pyrazinyl, 6) morpholinyl, 7) pyrrolidinyl and 8) imidazolyl.

43. A compound of claim 42 selected from the group consisting of:

carbamic acid, dimethyl-, 7-(chloroethynyl)-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, (4b*S*,8a*R*)-;

1-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid, 7-(chloroethynyl)-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, (4b*S*,8a*R*)-;

carbamic acid, [2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, monohydrochloride, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [3-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)propyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(3-pyridinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, (2-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, (4-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, (3-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-; and

carbamic acid, [2-(4-pyridinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

or a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

44. A compound of claim 43 selected from the group consisting of:

carbamic acid, [2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, monohydrochloride, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, (2-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, (4-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-; and

carbamic acid, (3-pyridinylmethyl)-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

45. The compound of claim 42 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-C(O)-NH-$(CH_2)_2$-(1-pyrrolidinyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

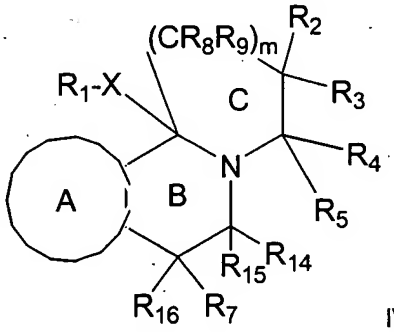
46. The compound of claim 42 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-C(O)-NH-$(CH_2)_2$- $N(CH_3)_2$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. The compound of claim 42 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-C(O)-NH-CH_2-2-pyridyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. The compound of claim 42 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-C(O)-NH-CH_2-4-pyridyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. The compound of claim 42 wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -O-C(O)-NH-CH_2-3-pyridyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. A compound of claim 1 of formula IV



IV

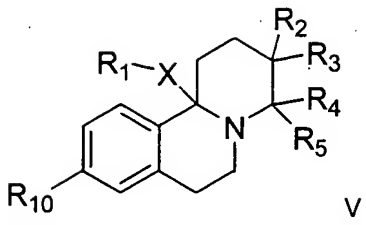
an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

wherein the variables are as defined in claim 1.

51. A compound of claim 50, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_8 is -H; R_9 is -H; m is 2; R_7 is -H; R_{14} is -H; R_{15} is -H; R_{16} is -H; and the A-ring is the moiety of formula A-1a.

52. A compound of claim 51 of formula V



V

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein X is $-CH_2-$;

R_1 is a) $-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl, b) $-(C_2-C_4)$alkenyl, c) -phenyl substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: -OH, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-NR_{12}-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl, -CN, -Z-het, $-O-(C_1-C_3)$alkyl-$C(O)-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-NR_{12}-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-Z-NR_{12}-SO_2-R_{13}$, $-NR_{12}-SO_2$-het, $-O-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl or $-O-SO_2-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl; d) -O-phenyl substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: $-Z-NR_{12}R_{13}$ or $-C(O)NR_{12}R_{13}$; or e) -CH=CH-phenyl wherein phenyl is substituted with 0 or 1 of the following: $-Z-NR_{12}R_{13}$ or $-C(O)NR_{12}R_{13}$;

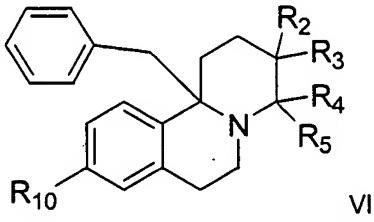
Z is for each occurrence independently $-(C_0-C_2)$alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each hydrogen or are taken together to form =O;

R_{10} is a) $-CH(OH)(C_1-C_5)$alkyl, b) -CN, c) -OH, d) -het, e) $-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl, f) $-C(O)-NR_{12}R_{13}$, g) -C(O)-NH-Z-het, h) $-O-(C_0-C_3)$alkyl-het, i) -O-Z-$C(O)-NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -O-Z-C(O)-NH-(C_0-C_3)alkyl-het or k) $-O-(C_0-C_3)$alkyl-phenyl;

R_{12} and R_{13} for each occurrence are independently a) -H or b) $-(C_1-C_4)$alkyl.

53. A compound of claim 52 of formula VI



VI

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

wherein R_2 is a) -C(O)OH, b) $-C(O)OCH_3$, c) $-C(O)OCH_2CH_3$ or d) $-CH_2OH$;

R_3 is a) $-(CH_2)_2-CF_3$, b) $-(CH_2)_2-CH_3$, c) $-CH_3$ or d) $-CF_3$;

R_4 and R_5 are each hydrogen or are taken together to form =O;

R_{10} is a) -OH, b) -O-(C_0-C_3)alkyl-phenyl or c) -O-(C_0-C_3)alkyl-het wherein het is selected from the group consisting of a) 2-pyridinyl, b) 3-pyridyl, c) 4-pyridyl, d) 2-methyl-3-pyridyl and e) pyrazinyl.

54. A compound of claim 53 selected from the group consisting of:

2*H*-benzo[a]quinolizine-3-carboxylic acid, 1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-4-oxo-9-(phenylmethoxy)-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, methyl ester, (3-*cis*)-;

2*H*-benzo[a]quinolizine-3-methanol, 1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-9-(phenylmethoxy)-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, (3-*cis*)-;

2*H*-benzo[a]quinolizine-3-methanol, 1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-9-hydroxy-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, (3-*cis*)-;

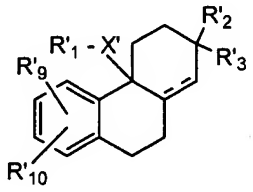
2*H*-benzo[a]quinolizine-3-carboxylic acid, 1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-9-hydroxy-4-oxo-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, methyl ester, (3-*cis*)-;

4*H*-benzo[a]quinolizin-4-one, 1,2,3,6,7,11b-hexahydro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-9-(phenylmethoxy)-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, (3-*cis*)-; and

4*H*-benzo[a]quinolizin-4-one, 1,2,3,6,7,11b-hexahydro-9-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-11b-(phenylmethyl)-3-propyl-, (3*S*-*cis*)-;

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

55. A compound of formula VII



VII

or an isomer thereof;

wherein - - - is an optional bond;

X' is -CH_2-;

R'_1 is phenyl substituted with 0, 1 or 2 R'_x;

R'_2 is -OH;

R'_3 is a) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 R'_y or b) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl substituted with 0 or 1 R'_y;

R'_y is -CF_3;

or R'_2 and R'_3 are taken together to form =O;

R'_9 is -H;

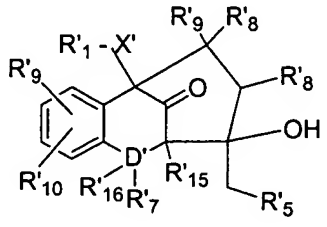
R'_{10} is a) -halo, b) -C(O)OH, c) -C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -C(O)-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$, e) -CN, f) -OH or g) -O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl;

R'_x is a) -halo, b) -OH, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -CN, e) -CF_3, f) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl-$NR'_2R'_{13}$, g) -C(O)-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$, h) -NR'_{12}-$SO_2R'_{13}$, i) -NR'_{12}-C(O)-R'_{13}, j) -$SO_2R'_{12}$ or k) -SO_2-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$;

R'_{12} and R'_{13} for each occurrence are each independently a) -H or b) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

56. 2(3H)-Phenanthrenone, 4,4a,9,10-tetrahydro-7-bromo-4a-(phenylmethyl)-,(S)-, a compound of claim 55.

57. A compound of formula VIII



VIII

or an isomer thereof;

wherein D' is C;

X' is -CH_2-;

R'_1 is phenyl substituted with 0 to 2 R'_x;

R'_5, R'_7, R'_8, R'_9, R'_{15} and R'_{16} for each occurrence are independently a) -H, b) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl or d) halo;

R'_{10} is a) -halo, b) -CN, c) -OH, d) -C(O)-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$, e) -C(O)-NR'_{12}-Z'-het wherein het is substituted with 0 or 1 R'_x, f)-C(O)-NR'_{12}-Z'-aryl wherein aryl is substituted with 0 or 1 R'_x, g) -O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-het wherein het is substituted with 0 or 1 R'_x, or h) -O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-aryl wherein aryl is substituted with 0 or 1 R'_x;

Z' is a) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl, b) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or c) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl;

R'_x is a) -halo, b) -OH, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -CN, e) -CF_3, f) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$, g) -C(O)-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$, h) -NR'_{12}-$SO_2R'_{13}$, i) -NR'_{12}-C(O)-R'_{13}, j) -$SO_2R'_{12}$ or k) -SO_2-$NR'_{12}R'_{13}$;

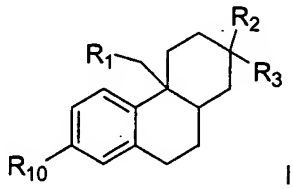
R'_{12} and R'_{13} for each occurrence are each independently a) -H or b) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

aryl is phenyl;

het is a 5-,6- or 7-membered saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring containing from one (1) to three (3) heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur.

58. 1(R)-Benzyl-6-methoxy-1-(S)-(3-oxo-butyl)-3,4-dihydro-1H-naphthelen-2-one, a compound of claim 57.

59. A compound of claim 3 of formula II



II

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

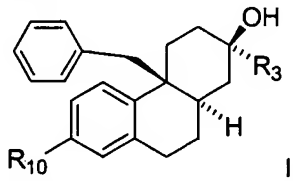
wherein R_1 is -phenyl;

R_2 is -OH;

R_3 is a) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, b) -C≡C-CH_3, c) -C≡C-Cl, d) -C≡C-CF_3, e) -CH_2O(C_1-C_3)alkyl substituted with 0 or 1 CF_3, or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is –OH, –CN, -C(O)OH or –C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

60. A compound of claim 59 of formula III



III

a prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug;

wherein R_3 is a) -(CH_2)$_2$-CF_3, b) -(CH_2)$_2$-CH_3, c) -CH_3, d) -C≡C-CH_3, e) -C≡C-Cl or f) -CF_3;

R_{10} is as defined in claim 59.

61. A compound of claim 60 selected from the group consisting of:

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is -OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is –CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -C≡C-CH_3 and R_{10} is –COOH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is –OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is –CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CH_3 and R_{10} is –COOH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -$(CH_2)_2$-CF_3 and R_{10} is -COOH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CH_3 and R_{10} is -OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CH_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CH_3 and R_{10} is -COOH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CF_3 and R_{10} is -OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CF_3 and R_{10} is -CN; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

a compound of formula III wherein R_3 is -CF_3 and R_{10} is -COOH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

62. A method of treating obesity in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein the mammal is a female or male human.

64. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or

isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

65. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of obesity comprising an obesity treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

66. A pharmaceutical combination composition comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

a second compound, said second compound being a β_3 agonist, a thyromimetic agent, an eating behavior modifying agent or a NPY antagonist; and

a pharmaceutical carrier, vehicle or diluent.

67. The composition of claim 66 wherein the second compound is orlistat or sibutramine.

68. A method of treating obesity comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment

an amount of a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

a second compound, said second compound being a β_3 agonist, a thyromimetic agent, an eating behavior modifying agent or a NPY antagonist; and

wherein the amounts of the first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein the second compound is orlistat or sibutramine.

70. A kit comprising:

a) a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent in a first unit dosage form;

b) a second compound, said second compound being a β_3 agonist, a thyromimetic agent, an eating behavior modifying agent or a NPY antagonist; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent in a second unit dosage form; and

c) a container for containing said first and second dosage forms; wherein the amounts of said first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

71. A method of inducing weight loss in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

72. A pharmaceutical composition for inducing weight loss comprising a weight loss-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

73. A method of treating diabetes in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

74. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a diabetes-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

75. A pharmaceutical combination composition comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

a second compound, said second compound being an aldose reductase inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, a sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor, insulin, troglitazone, sulfonylurea, glipazide, glyburide, or chlorpropamide; and

a pharmaceutical carrier, vehicle or diluent.

76. A pharmaceutical composition as recited in claim 75 wherein the aldose reductase inhibitor is 1-phthalazineacetic acid, 3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-3-[[5-trifluoromethyl)-2-benzothiazolyl]methyl]- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

77. A method of treating diabetes comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment

an amount of a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

a second compound, said second compound being an aldose reductase inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, a sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor, insulin, troglitazone sulfonylurea, glipazide, glyburide, or chlorpropamide ; and

wherein the amounts of the first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

78. A pharmaceutical combination composition comprising:

therapeutically effective amounts of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and

a compound selected from the group consisting of a glucocorticoid receptor agonist, a cholinomimetic drug, an anti-Parkinson's drug, an antianxiolytic drug, an antidepressant drug and an antipsychotic drug; and

a pharmaceutical carrier, vehicle or diluent.

79. The composition of claim 78 wherein the anti-Parkinson's drug is selected from the group consisting of L-dopa, bromocriptine and selegiline.

80. The composition of claim 78 wherein the antianxiolytic drug is selected from the group consisting of benzodiazepine, valium and librium.

81. The composition of claim 78 wherein the antidepressant drug is selected from the group consisting of desipramine, sertraline hydrochloride and fluoxetine hydrochloride.

82. The composition of claim 78 wherein the antipsychotic drug is selected from the group consisting of haloperidol and clozapine.

83. A kit comprising:

a) a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent in a first unit dosage form;

b) a second compound, said second compound being selected from the group consisting of a glucocorticoid receptor agonist, a cholinomimetic drug, an anti-

Parkinson's drug, an antianxiolytic drug, an antidepressant drug, and an antipsychotic drug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent in a second unit dosage form; and

c) a container for containing said first and second dosage forms wherein the amounts of said first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

84. The kit of claim 83 wherein the anti-Parkinson's drug is selected from the group consisting of L-dopa, bromocriptine and selegiline.

85. The kit of claim 83 wherein the antianxiolytic drug is selected from the group consisting of benzodiazepine, valium and librium.

86. The kit of claim 83 wherein the antidepressant drug is selected from the group consisting of desipramine, sertraline hydrochloride and fluoxetine hydrochloride.

87. The kit of claim 83 wherein the antipsychotic drug is selected from the group consisting of haloperidol and clozapine.

88. A method of treating anxiety in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

89. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of anxiety comprising an anxiety-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

90. A method of treating depression in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

91. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of depression comprising a depression-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

92. A method of treating neurodegeneration in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

93. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of neurodegeneration comprising a neurodegeneration-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent.

94. A method of affecting glucocorticoid receptor activity comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

95. A method of modulating a process mediated by glucocorticoid receptor comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

96. A method of treating a mammal requiring glucocorticoid receptor therapy comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a glucocorticoid receptor modulator compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

97. A method of treating an inflammatory disease in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

98. The method of claim 97 wherein the mammal is a female or male human.

99. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory disease comprising an inflammatory-treating amount of a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

100. A method for the treatment of an inflammatory disease in a mammal and for reducing the undesirable side effects of said treatment which comprises: administering to said mammal therapeutically effective amounts of a glucocorticoid receptor modulator and a glucocorticoid receptor agonist.

101. A method of claim 100 wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of arthritis, asthma, rhinitis and immunomodulation.

102. The method of claim 100 wherein the glucocorticoid receptor modulator is a compound of claim 1, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

103. The method of claim 100 wherein the glucocorticoid receptor agonist is a compound selected from the group consisting of prednisone, prednylidene, prednisolone, cortisone, dexamethasone and hydrocortisone.

104. A method of claim 102 wherein the glucocorticoid receptor modulator is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

carbamic acid, [2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-2-phenanthrenyl ester,[4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-*N*-pyrazinyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(1-propynyl)-7-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-, [2*R*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)];

2-phenanthrenecarbonitrile, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(1-propynyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-propyl-*N*-(2-pyridinylmethyl)-, [4b*S*-(4bα,7α,8aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-4a-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3-pyridinylmethoxy)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, [2*S*-(2α,4aα,10aβ)]-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-, (4b*S*,7*S*,8a*R)*;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-*N*-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-, (4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-7-methyl-4b-(phenylmethyl)-*N*-3-pyridinyl-, (4b*S*,7*R*,8a*R*)-;

2-phenanthrenol, 1,2,3,4,4a,9,10,10a-octahydro-7-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methoxy]-4a-(phenylmethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-, (2*R*,4a*S*,10a*R*)-; and

2-phenanthrenecarboxamide, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10-octahydro-7-hydroxy-N-[(2-methyl-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-4b-(phenylmethyl)-7-(trifluoromethyl)-, (4bS, 7R, 8aR)-;

or an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.